

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 197

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help States expand the education system to include at least 1 year of early education preceding the year a child enters kindergarten.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 17, 2003

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help States expand the education system to include at least 1 year of early education preceding the year a child enters kindergarten.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Early Education Act
5 of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) In 1989 the Nation's governors established
 2 a goal that all children would have access to high
 3 quality early education programs by the year 2000.
 4 As of January 1, 2003, this goal has still not been
 5 achieved.

6 (2) Research suggests that a child's early years
 7 are critical to the development of the brain. Early
 8 brain development is an important component of
 9 educational and intellectual achievement.

10 (3) The National Research Council of the Na-
 11 tional Academy of Sciences reported that early edu-
 12 cation opportunities are necessary if children are
 13 going to develop the language and literacy skills nec-
 14 essary to learn to read.

15 (4) Evaluations of early education programs
 16 demonstrate that compared to children with similar
 17 backgrounds who have not participated in early edu-
 18 cation programs, children who participate in such
 19 programs—

20 (A) perform better on reading and mathe-
 21 matics achievement tests;

22 (B) are more likely to stay academically
 23 near their grade level and make normal aca-
 24 demic progress throughout elementary school;

1 (C) are less likely to be held back a grade
 2 or require special education services in elemen-
 3 tary school;

4 (D) show greater learning retention, initia-
 5 tive, creativity, and social competency; and

6 (E) are more enthusiastic about school and
 7 are more likely to have good attendance
 8 records.

9 (5) Studies have estimated that for every dollar
 10 invested in quality early education, about 7 dollars
 11 are saved in later costs.

12 **SEC. 3. EARLY EDUCATION.**

13 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 14 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by adding at
 15 the end the following:

16 **“TITLE X—EARLY EDUCATION**

17 **“SEC. 10001. EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

18 “(a) DEFINITION OF EARLY EDUCATION.—In this
 19 section, the term ‘early education’ means not less than a
 20 half-day of schooling each week day during the academic
 21 year preceding the academic year a child enters kinder-
 22 garten.

23 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-
 24 tablish a program to develop the foundation of early lit-
 25 eracy and numerical training among young children by

1 helping State educational agencies expand the education
 2 system to include early education for all children.

3 “(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
 5 to award grants to not less than 10 State edu-
 6 cational agencies to enable the State educational
 7 agencies to expand the education system with pro-
 8 grams that provide early education.

9 “(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The amount
 10 provided to a State educational agency under para-
 11 graph (1) shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of
 12 the program described in the application submitted
 13 pursuant to subsection (d).

14 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Each program assisted
 15 under this section—

16 “(A) shall be carried out by one or more
 17 local educational agencies, as selected by the
 18 State educational agency;

19 “(B) shall be carried out—

20 “(i) in a public school building; or

21 “(ii) in another facility by, or through
 22 a contract or agreement with, a local edu-
 23 cational agency;

1 “(C) shall be available to all children
2 served by a local educational agency carrying
3 out the program; and

4 “(D) shall only involve instructors who are
5 licensed or certified in accordance with applica-
6 ble State law.

7 “(d) APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency
8 desiring a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
9 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
10 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
11 require. Each application shall—

12 “(1) include a description of—

13 “(A) the program to be assisted under this
14 section; and

15 “(B) how the program will meet the pur-
16 pose of this section; and

17 “(2) contain a statement of the total cost of the
18 program and the source of the matching funds for
19 the program.

20 “(e) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—In order to carry
21 out the purpose of this section, the Secretary—

22 “(1) shall establish a system for the monitoring
23 and evaluation of, and shall annually report to Con-
24 gress regarding, the programs funded under this
25 section; and

1 “(2) may establish any other policies, proce-
 2 dures, or requirements, with respect to the pro-
 3 grams.

4 “(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
 5 available under this section shall be used to supplement,
 6 not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds, includ-
 7 ing funds provided under Federal programs such as the
 8 Head Start programs carried out under the Head Start
 9 Act and the Even Start family literacy program carried
 10 out under subpart 3 of part B of title I.

11 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 13 \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through
 14 2008.”.

15 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

16 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
 17 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. prec.
 18 6301) is amended by adding at the end the following:

 “TITLE X—EARLY EDUCATION

 “Sec. 10001. Early education program.”.

